

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2011, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "Closing the Digital Divide: Connecting Native Nations and Communities to the 21st Century."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2011, at 12 p.m. in S-216.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2011, at 10:15 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland on the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMPETITIVENESS, INNOVATION, AND EXPORT PROMOTION

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Competitiveness, Innovation, and Export Promotion of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on April 5, 2011, at 10 a.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, "Tourism in America: Removing Barriers and Promoting Growth."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following staff of the Finance Committee be allowed on the Senate floor for the duration of the debate on H.R. 4: Andrew Fishburn and Eric Roberts.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 493

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, the Senate resume consideration of S. 493 and the pending amendments be set aside and Senator REID or a designee be recognized to call up the following amendments:

Baucus No. 236; Stabenow No. 277; Rockefeller No. 215; Coburn No. 217; Coburn No. 223; Coburn No. 273; Inouye No. 286; that the pending Sanders amendment No. 207 be modified with the changes at the desk; that the Senate then proceed to a period of debate only until 4 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to votes in relation to the following amendments in the order listed below:

Baucus No. 236; Stabenow No. 277; Rockefeller No. 215; McConnell No. 183; Coburn No. 223; Inouye No. 286; and Coburn No. 273; that there be no amendments in order to the amendments prior to the votes; the amendments not be divisible; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; there be 2 minutes equally divided in between the votes; all after the first vote be 10 minutes in duration; and the amendments be subject to a 60-vote threshold for adoption; that upon the disposition of the Coburn amendment No. 273, amendment Nos. 184 and 217 offered by Senator COBURN be agreed to; that no amendments be in order to the Coburn amendments Nos. 184 and 217 prior to their adoption; and all of the above occurring with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate everyone's patience in regard to getting this consent agreement. None of these votes are easy, but the votes are necessary.

I would also say, in relation to the statement made by my friend from Colorado, that—I am trying to figure out who is the senior Senator between the Presiding Officer—the junior Senator from Colorado, the nice statement he

made: We are doing our very best to work something out on the CR that will fund the government to the end of this fiscal year. As has been reported in the press, I had a meeting with the Speaker tonight at 4 o'clock. We are still negotiating in good faith. We are not that far apart. Hopefully, we can work something out. It is something we should be able to do and certainly we are trying. As we speak, our people are working. So I want everyone to know the government is not going to be shut down yet. There is still air in the tire. We still have some miles to travel, but I hope there is enough air in it to get us where we need to go.

HONORING PERISHED WEST VIRGINIA AND OTHER COAL MINERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the HELP Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 129, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 129) honoring the 29 coal miners who perished in the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia, on April 5, 2010, and remembering all those who have lost their lives while mining for the resources on which the United States relies.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 129) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 129

Whereas West Virginia coal miners and their predecessors not only have a strong commitment to providing a good living for their families, but also take a deep and patriotic pride in the fact that their work and the energy they produce has made the United States strong and free;

Whereas coal mining has been, and remains, an important part of the economy of the United States;

Whereas coal accounts for nearly ½ of the electricity produced in the United States;

Whereas coal has been commercially mined in what is now the State of West Virginia since 1810;

Whereas since 1810, West Virginia miners and their families have sacrificed greatly to mine the coal that powers the economy of the United States;

Whereas, on April 5, 2010, 29 heroic and patriotic West Virginia miners tragically lost their lives in an explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia;